

Applicant : Marohl et al.  
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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A retaining ring comprising:  
a generally annular body having a top surface, a bottom surface, an inner diameter surface, and an outer diameter surface, wherein the bottom surface is configured to contact a polishing pad during polishing and the outer diameter surface includes a vertical surface, a tapered section and an outwardly projecting flange having a lower surface parallel to the top surface of the annular body, the vertical surface is adjacent to the bottom surface and the tapered section extends upwardly and outwardly from the vertical surface to the lower surface of the flange.
- 2-4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously Presented) The retaining ring of claim 1, wherein the tapered section forms an angle of about 60° relative to a plane parallel to the bottom surface.
6. (Previously Presented) The retaining ring of claim 1, wherein the inner diameter surface includes a tapered section having a circumference that is greater toward the top surface than toward the bottom surface.
7. (Previously Presented) The retaining ring of claim 6, wherein the inner diameter surface includes a vertical section between the tapered section and the bottom surface.
8. (Previously Presented) The retaining ring of claim 6, wherein the tapered section of the inner diameter surface forms an angle of about 80° relative to the top surface.

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9. (Previously Presented) The retaining ring of claim 1, wherein the bottom surface includes a plurality of channels.

10. (Original) The retaining ring of claim 1, wherein the top surface includes a plurality of holes formed therein.

11. (Original) The retaining ring of claim 10, wherein the top surface includes eighteen holes.

12. (Original) The retaining ring of claim 1, further comprising at least one drain hole extending from the inner diameter surface to the outer diameter surface.

13. (Original) The retaining ring of claim 1, wherein the inner diameter surface has a radius of about 300 mm adjacent the bottom surface.

14-21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) The retaining ring of claim 1, wherein the greatest circumference of the retaining ring is at the flange.

23. (Canceled)